

Chickadees At Night

by Bill O. Smith



illustrated by Charles R. Murphy



Bloomfield Township Public

Library

1099 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Township, Michigan 48302
(248) 642-5800 | www.btpl.org



31160021561928

WITHDRAWN

Chickadees At Night

by Bill O. Smith

illustrated by Charles R. Murphy

For all who sing in tough times

B.O.S. and C.R.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill O. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Text and Illustration Copyright © 2012 by Bill O. Smith

Book Design by JeniferThomasDesign.com

All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole
or in part in any form.

First Edition

Published by Sleepytime Press

E-mail: sleepytimepress@gmail.com

Web site: www.sleepytimepress.com

Printed by Quad Graphics Commercial Specialty Burlington, Wisconsin

ISBN 978-0-615-56972-7

Library of Congress Control Number: 2012901871

A large, dark green evergreen tree branch occupies the left side of the page. Several chickadees are depicted: one perched on a branch near the top left, another in flight with wings spread, and a third partially visible on the far left edge. The background is a solid yellow color.

The sun comes up.
Chickadees tweet.
Chickadees flit.
Chickadees eat.

They dip and dart
through a tangle of trees,

chittery flittery chickadees.

But sometime near the end of day,
chickadees fly away, away —
through the branches, out of sight ...

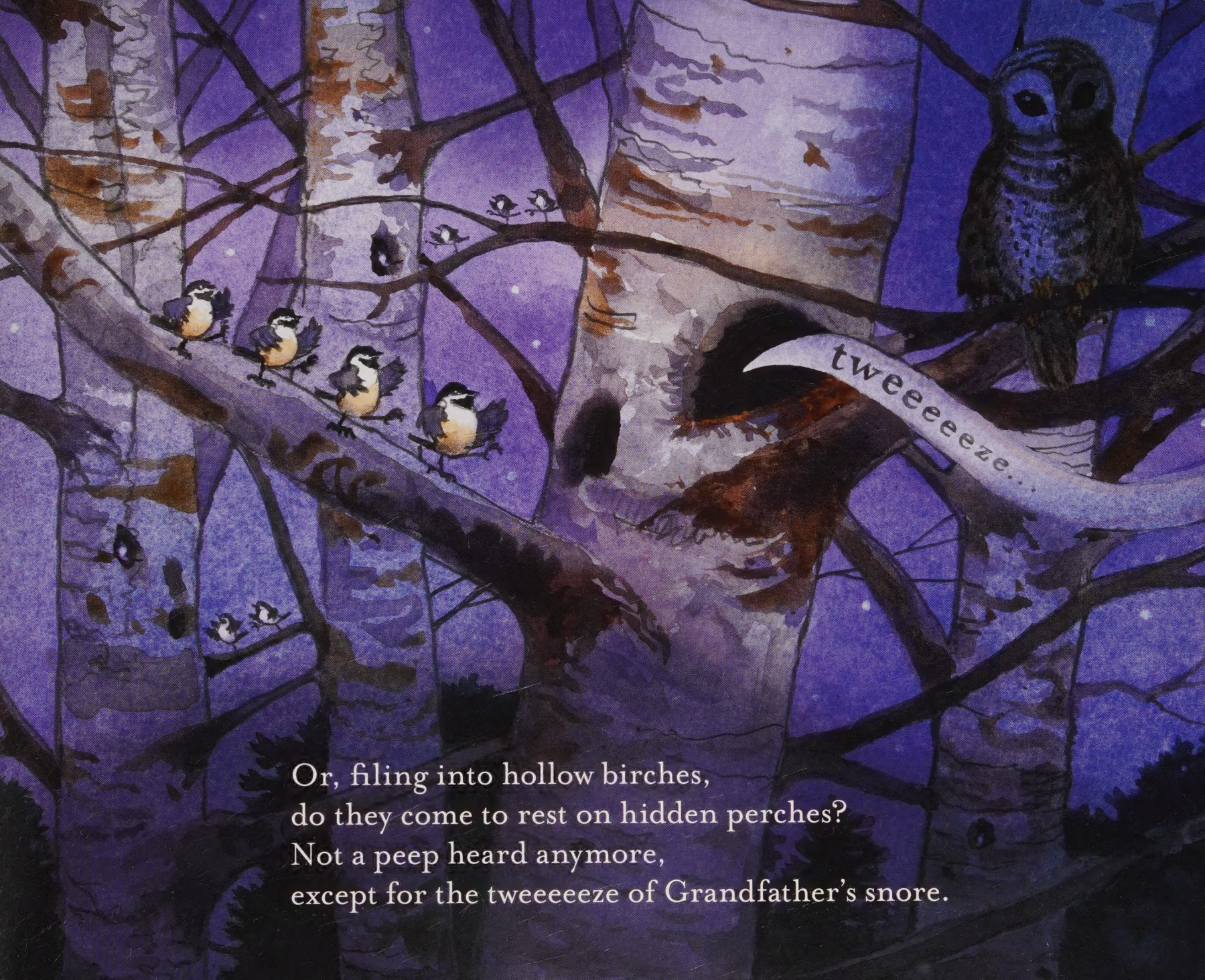
A wooden bird feeder with a yellow, dome-shaped roof stands on the right side. A chickadee is perched on the edge of the feeder's platform. To the right of the feeder, another chickadee is shown in flight, moving away from the page.



... where do chickadees go at night?

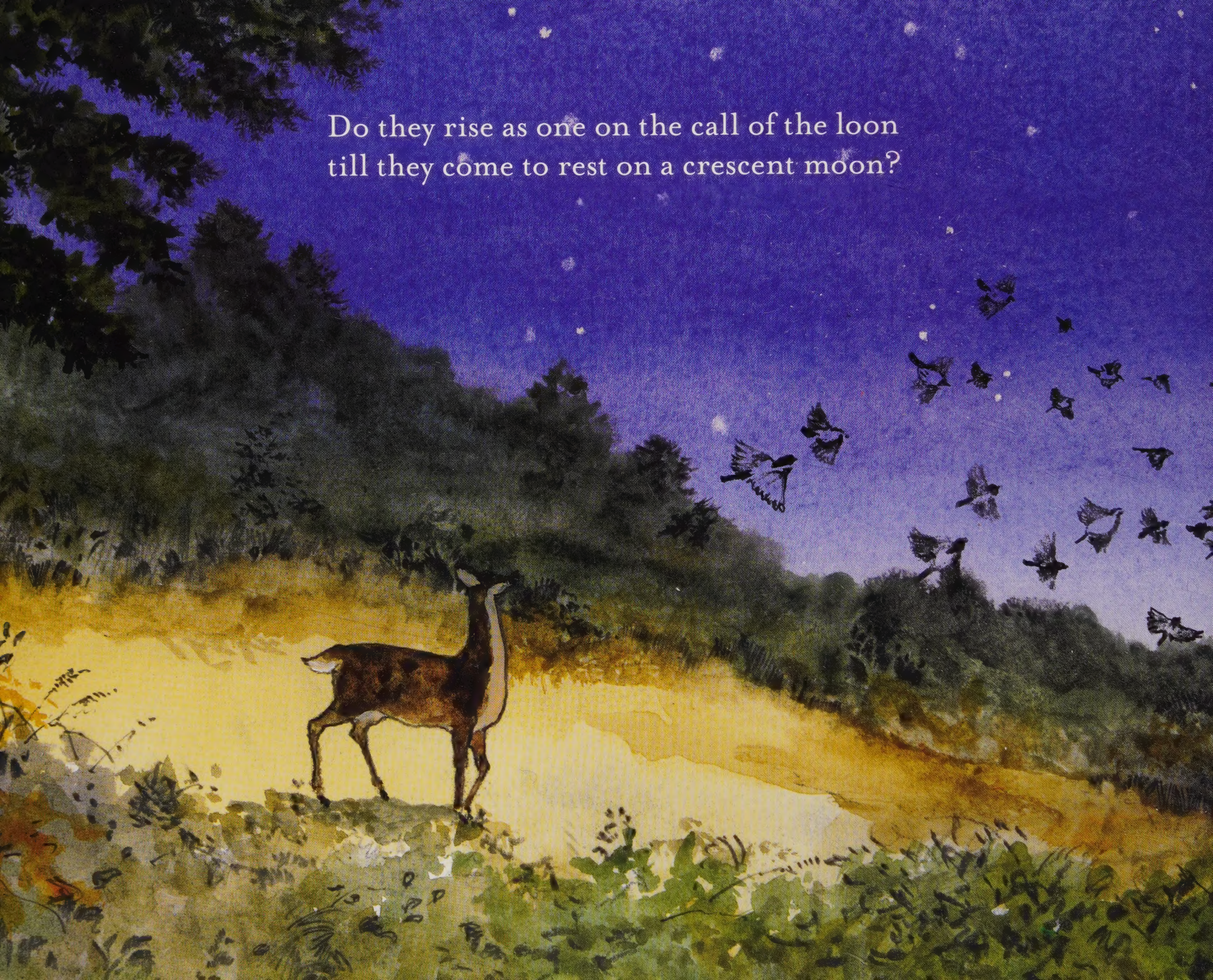


After dipping and darting
and dining for hours,
do they climb to the clouds?
Do they scrub in the showers?



Or, filing into hollow birches,
do they come to rest on hidden perches?
Not a peep heard anymore,
except for the tweeeeeze of Grandfather's snore.

Do they rise as one on the call of the loon
till they come to rest on a crescent moon?





And that moon, with its smiling sideways lips,
is that really a ... chickadee-clipse?

No! That can't be! That's too far for a chickadee.
After they fly away, away, I'll bet they say:



Let's tickle our tummies in
windy trees—swinging,
swaying, in
the breeze.





Let's turn each spider web unseen
into a chickadee trampoline!



Look!

A tip of tail!

A point of beak!

Are chickadees playing
hide-and-seek?





And what is more fun than a moonlit whirl
on the furry back of a flying squirrel?





Unless it's even funner yet, to glide on an owl like a jumbo jet.

On summer nights, do grown-ups munch
on gourmet grubs and beetle crunch?
Now everyone knows that chickadees chirp.
But after those snacks do chickadees ...



And out of the sight of Mom and Pop,
do teens boogaloo at the chickadee hop?



Do the girls fluff up and shake their stuff
while the boys hang out and try to look tough?





When chickadee chicks are feeling blah,
do they clip their claws at the chickadee spa?



When a chickadee child is feeling down,
do lullabies rise over chickadee town?



When summer green turns into gold,
do great and small and young and old ...



... gather for ancient tales retold of chickadees kind
and chickadees bold?



Green to gold, gold to white,
how *do* they keep warm on a winter night?

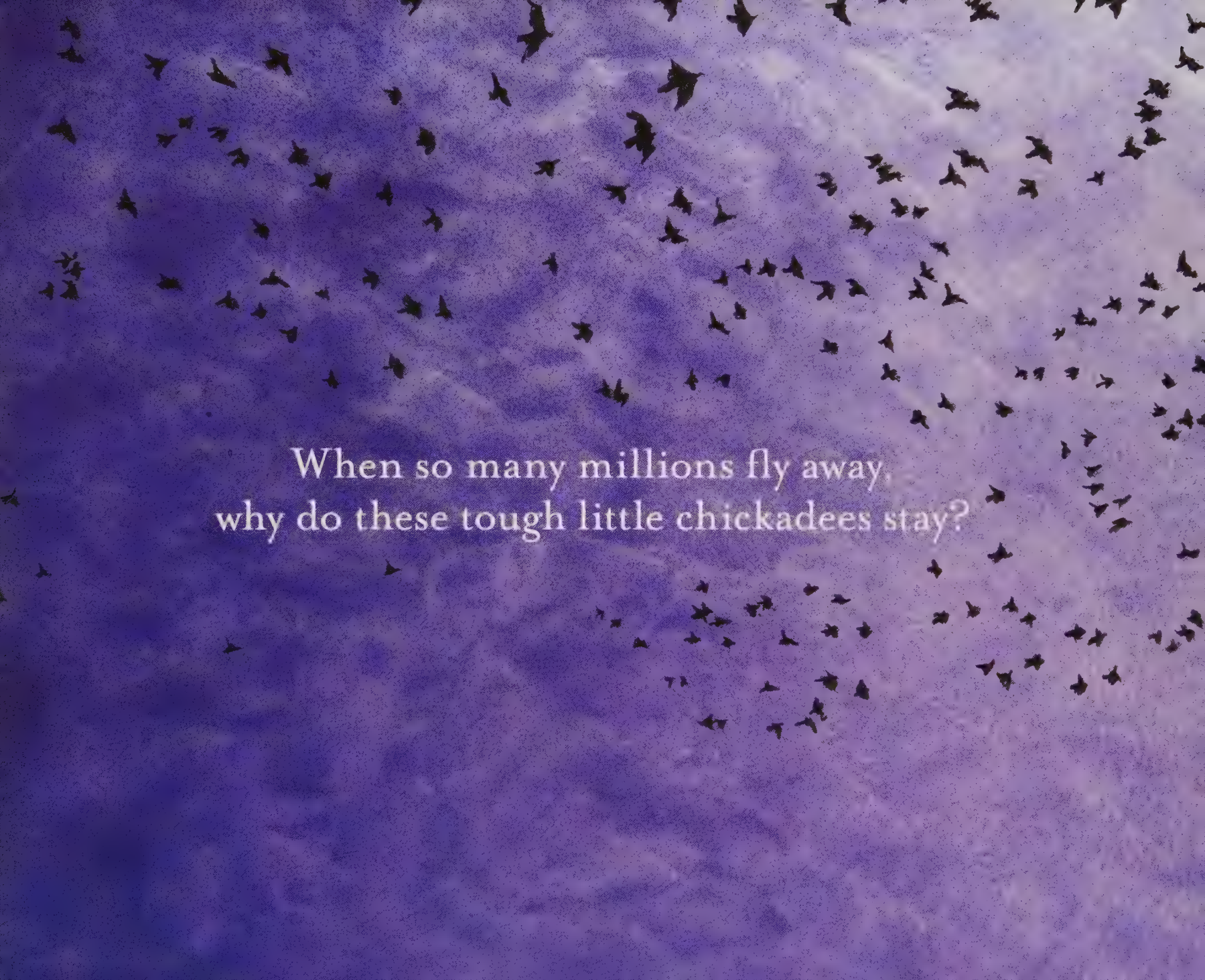
With chickadee caps on chickadee heads,
do they sleep eight across on chickadee beds?



From northern woods to the Alabamas,



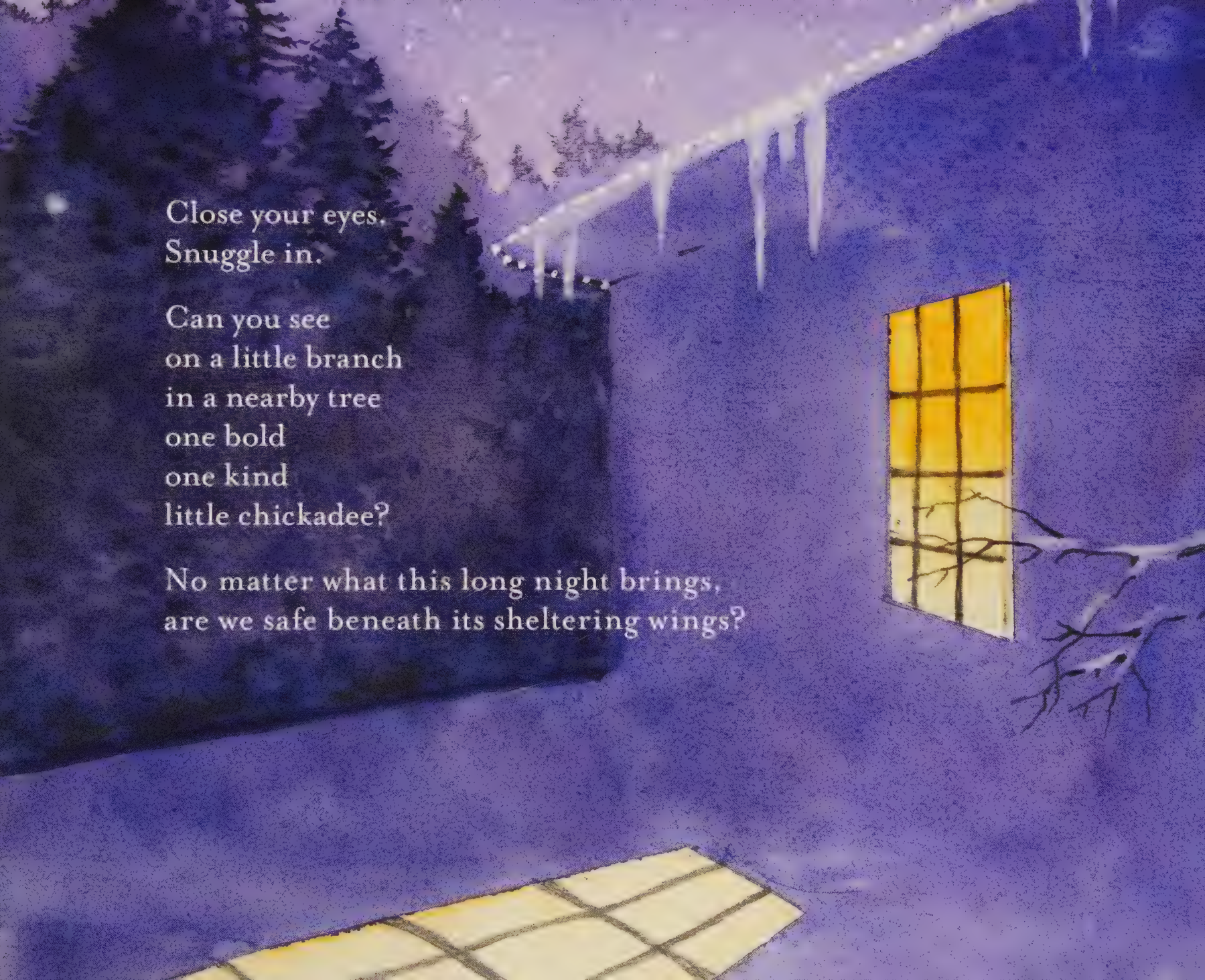
what do chickadees wear for pajamas?

A large flock of small birds, likely chickadees, is shown in flight against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The birds are small, dark silhouettes with white underparts, scattered across the entire frame. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

When so many millions fly away,
why do these tough little chickadees stay?

Are they out there now, on this starry night,
just past the spill of bedroom light?



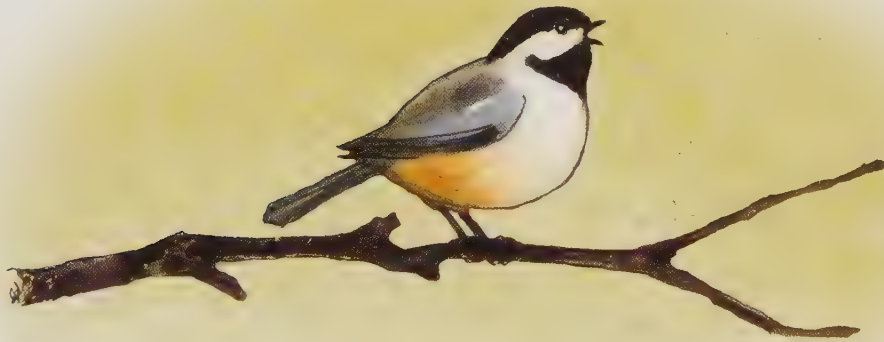


Close your eyes.
Snuggle in.

Can you see
on a little branch
in a nearby tree
one bold
one kind
little chickadee?

No matter what this long night brings,
are we safe beneath its sheltering wings?

I hear the answer inside of me ...



fee-bee... fee-bee... chicka-dee-dee-dee...

Can you hear it too, inside of you? ...



fee-bee... fee-bee...

...shhhhhhhhh...

...chicka-dee-dee-dee.....



A night scene with a full moon, stars, and evergreen trees. The moon is large and bright, positioned in the upper left. The sky is dark blue with several stars. The trees are dark green and silhouetted against the sky. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

We hear, little bird, your ancient song —
wherever you are, is where you belong.

Chickadee Nuggets



A chickadee will fit into a child's hands. It weighs about as much as a quarter.

Chickadees live in every state in the continental United States, and in every province of Canada.

There are seven species of chickadees. The most common is the black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*).

Chickadees stay put. They are popular visitors at millions of bird feeders twelve months a year.

Although chickadees love sunflower seeds at feeders, their favorite food is insects.



Chickadees usually roost high in evergreen trees, low in spruce trees, or in small tree cavities, often birch.

During nesting season, males serenade females with a dawn chorus that can last from twenty minutes to an hour.

Chickadee pairs usually make nests in holes in soft or rotting wood, usually 3 to 10 feet off the ground. Father chickadee often feeds Mother while she is sitting on eggs.

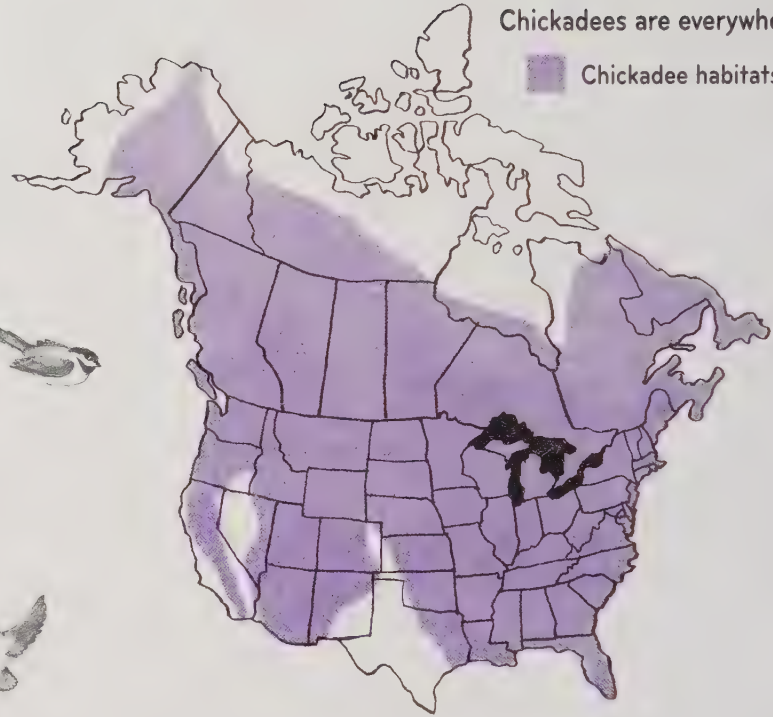
Chickadee pairs remain with one flock permanently. The young move to other flocks.



In the fall, the "memory" part of a chickadee's brain gets much bigger. Chickadees can remember for twenty-eight days or more where they store food.

Chickadees are everywhere!

 Chickadee habitats

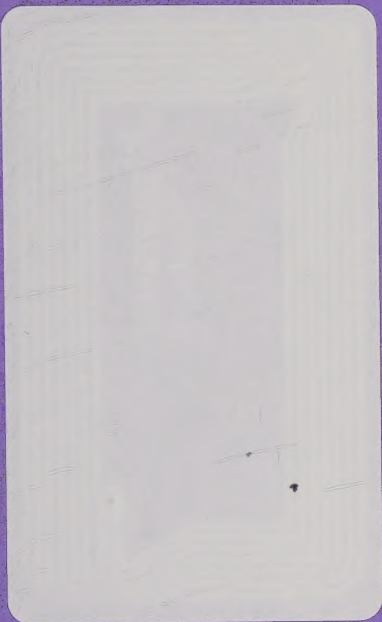


In winter, chickadees will gain an additional 10% of body weight each day by stuffing themselves, and then keep warm at night by shivering the fat away.

A lovely fee-bee and a buzzy chicka-dee-dee-dee are the best known chickadee songs. But chickadees actually use at least fifteen calls to talk to each other about such concerns as danger, territory, and food supply.

A patient child might get a chickadee to eat out of his or her hands.

A patient child might also find more than ten chickadees, but fewer than twenty, on the hide-and-seek page of this book.



Where do chickadees go at night? What a story they have to tell! So gather around, one and all, for a flight of fancy into the mysteries of the natural world.



Bill O. Smith is a former elementary school principal and author of numerous plays and educational materials for children. He currently lives among the chickadees of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire, Michigan.

Artist/Educator Charles R. Murphy has illustrated a number of books including the award-winning *Reach for the Moon* (Scholastic) and his own book of rhyming verse *The Waking Hour*. He has exhibited nationally with the American Watercolor Society and the International Society of Experimental Artists. His work is collected worldwide. Charles and his wife, Carrie, live in Traverse City, Michigan.

Please contact Bill O. Smith at www.chickadeesatnight.com.

To further enjoy the art and activities of Charles Murphy, visit www.artistsnorth.com/murphy.

The author is pleased to donate five percent of net sales to community organizations helping to build safer, healthier 'nests' for children.



Sleepytime Press

Proudly
Printed in USA

\$18.85
ISBN 978-0-615-56972-7
5 1885 >



9 780615 569727



T2-EHZ-703